

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
WAYCROSS DIVISION**

FILED  
John E. Triplett, Acting Clerk  
United States District Court  
By CAsbell, at 3:05 pm, May 20, 2020

BENJAMIN EUGENE ISAAC,

Plaintiff,

v.

ROBERT ELLIS; and SHIRLYN THOMAS,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 5:20-cv-61

**ORDER**

Plaintiff, who is currently housed at Ware County Jail in Waycross, Georgia, filed a Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Doc. 1. Plaintiff contests events allegedly occurring at Valdosta State Prison in Valdosta, Georgia, which is in Lowndes County, Georgia. Id.

A district court may raise the issue of defective venue sua sponte. Collins v. Hagel, No. 1:13-CV-2051, 2015 WL 5691076, at \*1 (N.D. Ga. Sept. 28, 2015) (citing Kapordelis v. Danzig, 387 F. App'x 905, 906–07 (11th Cir. 2010) (affirming sua sponte transfer, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a), of pro se prisoner's civil rights action from New York to Georgia), and collecting cases)). When venue is improper, a court “shall dismiss, or if it be in the interest of justice, transfer such case to any district . . . in which it could have been brought.” 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a). “The court may transfer the case if (1) the proposed transferee court is one in which the action ‘could have been brought’ and (2) transfer would be ‘in the interest of justice.’” Leach v. Peacock, Civil Action No. 2:09cv738, 2011 WL 1130596, at \*4 (M.D. Ala. Mar. 25, 2011) (citing 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a)). Trial courts generally have broad discretion in determining

whether to transfer or dismiss a case. Id. (citing England v. ITT Thompson Indus., Inc., 856 F.2d 1518, 1520 (11th Cir. 1988)).

This Court is not the proper venue to hear Plaintiff's claims against the named Defendants. Section 1391(b) of Title 28 of the United States Code sets forth the applicable venue provisions:

A civil action may be brought in (1) a judicial district in which any defendant resides, if all defendants are residents of the State in which the district is located; (2) a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated; or (3) if there is no district in which an action may otherwise be brought as provided in this section, any judicial district in which any defendant is subject to the court's personal jurisdiction with respect to such action.

Plaintiff complains about events occurring in Lowndes County, Georgia, which is within the Middle District of Georgia. 28 U.S.C. § 90(b)(6). Thus, venue is proper in that District.

28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2). Accordingly, the Court **TRANSFERS** Plaintiff's Complaint and this case to the Valdosta Division of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia in the interest of justice.

**SO ORDERED**, this 20th day of May, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Cheesbro', is written over a horizontal line.

BENJAMIN W. CHEESBRO  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA